



(S//SI) Doing SIGINT Against Public Broadcasts

FROM: [REDACTED]
IWSC Capabilities Branch (S1521)
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(U) When you say SIGINT, the first things to come to mind are not press, propaganda and other public broadcasts - except for processing encrypted or "hidden meaning" passages in such broadcasts. The Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) regularly reports the content of these open broadcasts.

(S//SI) Times change. Some of NSA's combatant command customers have articulated SIGINT Information Needs on the technical details of communications that carry open broadcasts. During OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, the identification and location of Iraqi Satellite Television became a high priority.

(S//SI) The question of NSA's authority to conduct SIGINT against such targets has been reviewed by the Office of General Counsel's Operations Practice Group with the following result:

"NSA can intercept and process foreign press, propaganda and other open broadcast signals for the purpose of deriving technical data concerning such signals. Any of this technical data that is of foreign intelligence value can be reported to appropriate customers. NSA cannot do COMINT reporting on the content of such transmissions; this is the responsibility of other organizations."

(U//FOUO) See a [Staff Processing Form](#) on the subject.

(U//FOUO) It is prudent to note that Information Needs relating to press, propaganda and other public broadcasts are subject to the same National SIGINT Requirements Process criteria for validation and prioritization as any other requirements.

(C) POC for this message is [REDACTED] [IWSC Capabilities Branch](#) (S1521), [REDACTED].

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